



Flathead National Forest

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Media Release

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Decision on Wild Cramer Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project

KALISPELL, MONT. – Chip Weber, Flathead National Forest Supervisor, has decided to implement alternative three, with modifications, from the Wild Cramer Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project environmental impact statement (EIS). Project activities will occur on the Swan Lake Ranger District, Flathead National Forest, and are within the Island Unit, an aggregation of National Forest System (NFS) lands entirely surrounded by private and State lands, lying approximately 10 miles south of Kalispell and two miles west of Flathead Lake.

The Wild Cramer Project is designed to improve or maintain the general health, resiliency and sustainability of forest stands, and reduce the risk of insect and disease infestations. The project will help reduce forest fuels build-up adjacent to public and private lands, and help to provide a safer environment for the public and firefighters should a wildfire occur within the area. The community will benefit from wood products for the local timber industry, contributing to short-term timber supply and providing for long-term sustainability of timber on NFS lands. The community's recreation industry will benefit from the project addressing forest health issues within the Blacktail Mountain Ski Area permit boundary.

Management actions in the selected alternative include commercial harvesting of trees on 2,750 acres, thinning sapling trees on approximately 3,846 acres, non-commercially thinning of trees on 67 acres, and prescribed burning on 201 acres. Approximately seven miles of permanent (specified) road and 8.2 miles of temporary road will be constructed to facilitate the tree harvest activities. Temporary roads will be rehabilitated following their use and the permanent roads, after their use in project activities, will be put in a storage condition.

A copy of the Record of Decision (ROD) and the final EIS can be obtained at the Hungry Horse Ranger Station at 10 Hungry Horse Drive, Hungry Horse, Montana 59919 (406-387-3800), at the Swan Lake Ranger Station at 200 Ranger Station Road, Bigfork, MT 59911 (406-837-7500), or at the Flathead National Forest Supervisor's Office, 650 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell, MT 59901 (406-758-5204). The ROD and final EIS may also be downloaded from the Flathead National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/flathead/projects.

For more information about the project, please contact Michele Draggoo, Project Leader, at (406) 387-3827.

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